

DETAILED ACTION

Interview Summary

During the interview session, applicant's representative further clarified the claimed "center line of the lateral surface member" as claimed in claim 18 and also explained how a shape of the first engaging structure and a shape of the second engaging structure are in an asymmetrical relationship in reference to a center line of the lateral surface member. Furthermore, applicant's representative discussed that the figure (5) of the prior art Yamazaki et al. (US 6,136,091), which the previous rejection is relying on, does not teach that the engaging structures have an asymmetrical relationship with the respect to the center line of the lateral surface member.

In response, the examiners pointed that Yamazaki et al (US '091) is properly teaching this limitation, as also it has been indicated in the previous office action, because claim 18 fails to clearly define which line in the lateral surface member has been considered as a center line. Thus, by the claim language, any line in the surface member which pass through can be considered as a center line. For example, if a line, which extends diagonally within the lateral surface member (32) of Yamazaki et al. (US '091), is to be considered as a center line, it is capable of meeting the limitation of claim 18 that "a shape of the first engaging structure

Art Unit: 1791

and a shape of the second engaging structure are in an asymmetrical relationship with reference to a center line of the lateral surface member"

Applicant's representative further stated he may consider an amendment to the claims for the further clarification of the claimed apparatus. Also, prior to the interview, the representative faxed an interview agenda which is attached to this office action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Masoud Malekzadeh whose telephone number is 571-272-6215. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday at 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin, can be reached on (571) 272-1189. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Art Unit: 1791

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Seyed M. Malekzadeh/

Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Eric Hug/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791